

our country engages to cut off those entities with regard to dual-use trade, munitions trade, access to our capital market. There is an array of things the President has to choose from to respond to that.

Mr. DOMENICI. I say to the majority leader, I have no objection. I withdraw my reservation.

Mr. SHELBY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I have a reservation that maybe the majority leader can clarify, if he will yield for a question.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would be glad to yield under the Senator's reservation and respond to the question.

Mr. SHELBY. Does this only relate to bringing up the THOMPSON bill and nothing else?

Mr. LOTT. This unanimous consent request only deals with the bill S. 2645, the China Nonproliferation Act. No other issue, no other bill is included in it.

Mr. SHELBY. I have no objection.

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I arrived on the floor a little late.

What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A unanimous consent request by the majority leader is pending.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my concern is that we are setting the July schedule, albeit part of the July schedule, but without inclusion of a date or time for PNTR. I am very concerned that as we start taking up matters in July—even though it is the THOMPSON amendment—who knows what might intervene. You have reconciliation; you have appropriations bills, and whatnot. Because we do not have a date certain on the request for PNTR, it could very easily slip into September or even a later date.

I know it is very much the intention of the majority leader to bring up the PNTR in July. He has said that many times. And I very much appreciate that. But as I have said personally to the majority leader, I am not so certain that, despite his best intentions, he can totally control whether or not PNTR actually does come up in July.

In addition, the merits of the bill that would otherwise be scheduled to come up after the July recess is very dangerous. I do not think Senators have really had the time to look at the provisions of that bill, to think through the implications of that bill. It has unilateral sanctions, mandatory—not discretionary—sanctions against China. It is very overdrawn. American companies doing business in China could be sanctioned. It has extraterritorial provisions which are way beyond the ordinary rules of inter-

national law. I think it would cause a tremendous strain in the context of PNTR.

My concern is that we are setting the schedule for July, albeit just a part of July, that does not include probably the most important vote that this Senate is going to take up this Congress; that is, passage of PNTR. And until there is a date set for PNTR, I must respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we will continue to work with both sides of the aisle to see if this matter can be dealt with in an acceptable way, aside from it being offered as an amendment to the China PNTR bill. I think that would be potentially a large problem because if it were adopted, certainly then that legislation would have to go back to the House, and there is a lot of concern about that.

As far as a time to consider the major bill, the China PNTR, this is an important part of the process in a move in that direction. And until we get this resolved, then it is going to be very hard to focus on exactly what date we could get a vote on the bill.

I must also add that it is true we have a lot of important work to do in July. We have to deal with the very unfair death penalty. We have to deal with eliminating the marriage penalty tax. We have to pass the agriculture appropriations bill. We have to pass the Interior appropriations bill. We have to pass the Housing and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. We have to pass the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill. We have to pass the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill. We have a lot of work to do, and none of it is insignificant.

The people's business needs to be taken care of. This is just a part of that process. But I understand the Senator's objection. We will keep working to see if we can find a time and a way to do it.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now have a unanimous consent request that the only first-degree amendments remaining in order to the Department of Defense authorization bill, S. 2549, be limited to amendments that are relevant to the provisions of the bill, and on the finite list of amendments in order to the bill; that these first-degree amendments be subject to relevant second-degree amendments; provided further that the first-degree amendments must be filed at the desk by the close of business on Friday, June 30, 2000.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will just say, as I indicated last night, we

want to work with the majority, with the leader, to accommodate his desire to bring this bill to closure. We are just about there. We are not quite there. I have been talking with one of my colleagues in regard to that particular request. We are not there yet. Unfortunately, I will object.

Mr. LOTT. Before the Senator objects, in the spirit of cooperation that we are working under, I would like to withdraw the request so we can keep working and see if we can get this agreed to today.

Mr. DASCHLE. That would be preferable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is withdrawn.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this is precisely what I and Senator LEVIN and Senator REID and others have been working on. On our side, as best I can assess, there is one remaining understandable discussion that must take place between Chairman ROTH of the Finance Committee and the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD. I believe other indications on our side have been fulfilled. I have worked through the morning. I believe they are fulfilled. So if that one remaining issue can hopefully be resolved, we might be able to readdress this today.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it looks as if we are going to be here for quite some time. I believe we will have an opportunity later on in the day to try again. We will certainly do our very best to get this agreed to. It is an important issue. We will do everything we can to come up with a fair agreement.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, until some understanding is agreed to on the amendment to which Mr. WARNER has alluded, I will object.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could turn to the military construction appropriations conference report, that is a very good bill that passed way back in May, I think it was May 18. This important military construction conference report passed the Senate under the leadership of Senator CONRAD BURNS, but from the very beginning, it was a bill that did have some emergency provisions attached to it. We did have the funds for the costs, the money that has been already spent for the defense for Kosovo, and some additional funds for costs associated with that.

Over a period now of almost 6 weeks, there has been a process underway between the House and the Senate on both sides of the aisle to get an agreement on this conference report that included a title II that had the emergency funds for the Kosovo situation, for the Colombia drug war, and also for